

APPENDIX A

Priorities for Implementation

The following assumptions were used in developing the process:

- ☐ Preference was given to WRIAs with stocks at risk of listing as endangered or threatened and with stocks which are at risk in the following order: critical, depressed, healthy. Information on stocks of unknown status were reviewed and stocks placed in the category with the best fit. Priority was given to areas where multiple species of concern occur.
- ☐ No distinction will be made for stocks that are considered unlikely to recover.
- ☐ In situations where all salmonid factors are equal, preference was given to watersheds with other threatened, endangered, or sensitive species present.

Evolutionarily Significant Units

Evolutionarily Significant Units (ESU) are defined by the National Marine Fisheries Service as a 1) population that is substantially reproductively isolated from conspecific populations and 2) represents an important component of the evolutionary legacy of the species. The NMFS establishes an ESU for each species considered for listing under the ESA. NMFS has established ESUs for steelhead and coho in the state of Washington. Potential ESUs for sockeye, chum, chinook, pinks and cutthroat have been prepared by WDFW as a planning tool while the agency awaits formal ESU designation by NMFS.

Bull trout are under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). Rather than ESUs, the USFWS identifies distinct population segments for each species considered for listing.

Both processes can result in listing a species as endangered, threatened or a candidate or a designation that a listing is not warranted. Currently, steelhead have been listed as threatened in the Snake River and mid-Columbia ESUs and endangered in the upper Columbia ESU. Chinook are listed as threatened in the Snake River.

In the WRIP prioritization process, WRIAs with species currently listed or with the potential to be listed under the ESA were awarded points. The following point system was used:

Endangered	3 pts
Threatened	2
Candidate	1

If more than one designation for a species was identified for an ESU, it was given the higher point award of the two (i.e., steelhead in an ESU might be listed as threatened or endangered. Points were awarded for an endangered status.). Point awards were the same for those ESUs already listed as for those with the potential to be listed.

Although westslope cutthroat have recently been petitioned for listing, they were not included at this time. Once stock status and listing information become available, the list can be updated to reflect new at-risk information.

Stock Status

Stock status for anadromous fish, bull trout and cutthroat was considered in this process. The salmon, steelhead, and cutthroat information is based on the Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory (SASSI) developed jointly by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and treaty Indian tribes. The inventory identifies 435 salmon and steelhead stocks¹ statewide and classified their status as (1) healthy, (2) depressed, (3) critical, or (4) unknown.

The number of stocks in each category within each WRIA was identified. Frequently, stocks are contained within single WRIAs, but where stocks occurred in multiple WRIAs, they were counted as part of both.

The following point system was used for stock status:

Critical stocks	3 pts
Depressed	2
Healthy	0
Unknown	0.5
Extinct	0

Points were awarded to each stock. Stock points were added for a WRIA total.

Example:

$3x + 2y + 0.5z$, where
x=number of critical stocks
y=number of depressed stocks
z=number of unknown stocks

The unknown status for salmon and steelhead stocks was included in the scoring because the uncertainty of their status is a concern to long-term survival.

Ranking

Status and ESU points were totaled for all species for each WRIA. WRIAs were then sorted into rank order with the WRIAs containing the most species at risk topping the list. The following table lists the watershed in priority order.

1

A stock is a group of fish of a species that is largely reproductively isolated from other fish of the same species

APPENDIX A WRIAs in Order of At-risk Stock Significance, Showing the Numbers Used to Determine Priority Order

RANK	WRI A	WRIA_NAME	Steelhead		Coho		Chinook		Sockeye		Cutthroat		Pinks		Chum		Bulltrout		WRIA Sum
			Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	Status	ESA Pot	
1	18	ELWAH_DUNGENESS	12.5		9		3	2					8		6		1.5		42
2	25	GRAYS_ELOKOMAN	1.5	2	12						5	2			2	3	0.5		28
3	26	COWLITZ	8	2	1		4				6.5	2							23.5
4	1	NOOKSACK	4.5		1		6	2			12		0.5		1		1.5		28.5
5	27	LEWIS	8.5	2	6						3	2				3	2	2	28.5
6	48	METHOW	2	3			1	2									8	2	18
7	29	WIND_WHITE_SALMON	1.5	2			6					2				3	0.5	2	17
8	28	SALMON_WASHOUGAL	4.5	2	6						1	2			4	3			22.5
9	16	SKOKOMISH_DOSE	8		2			2			1		2		3.5	3	1		22.5
10	35	MID_SNAKE	6	2			7.5	2									1	2	20.5
11	45	WENATCHEE	2	3			8	2									3.5	2	20.5
12	15	KITSAP	5.5		6		0.5	2							3	3			20
13	17	QUILCENE_SNOW	2.5		5		0.5	2							6	3			19
14	21	QUEETS_QUINAULT	2.5		2.5	2	6				1.5				0.5		1.5		16.5
15	7	SNOHOMISH	2.5	1	2.5		4.5	2			0.5				0.5		0.5		14
16	8	CEDAR_SAMMAMISH	2	1	2		0.5	2	6								0.5		14
17	24	WILLAPA	2		0.5	2	2				2	2				3			13.5
18	5	STILLAGUAMISH	4		2.5		4	2			0.5						0.5		13.5
19	39	UPPER_YAKIMA		1													9.5	2	12.5
20	10	PUYALLUP_WHITE		1	2		3.5	2			0.5				1		1.5		11.5
21	37	LOWER_YAKIMA	2.5	1			2										6		11.5
22	3	SKAGIT_SAMMISH			2		2	2	3		1		0.5		0.5		0.5		11.5
23	46	ENTIAT	2	3			2	2									0.5	2	11.5
24	20	SOLEDUCK_HOH	2.5		1.5				2	2	1				1.5		1		11.5
25	19	LYRE_HOKO	2.5		5		2								1.5				11
27	38	NACHES	0.5	1			4										2.5	2	10
28	22	LOWER_CHEHALIS	2.5		1	2	2				0.5				1		0.5		9.5
29	4	UPPER_SKAGIT	2		0.5		4	2					0.5				0.5		9.5
30	30	KLICKITAT	1	1	2		2										0.5	2	8.5
31	14	KENNEDY_GOLDSBGH	1.5	2	2		0.5	2											8
32	13	DESCHUTES					1	2			4				0.5				7.5

[illegible]